



Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

November 5, 2002

02-277

To the Members of the Federal Communications Commission:

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to the loosening of rules that promote and protect the diversity of media ownership in this country. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates, with interests that may run counter to those of the general citizenry. These rules are a major foundation of first amendment protections for the American people, and dismantling them would have dire effects on our democracy.

The negative effects of media consolidation include the extreme lack of diverse viewpoints heard in the mainstream media regarding a U.S. preemptive action in Iraq. On a personal level, I have found it more and more difficult in recent years to find in depth, varied coverage of local elections, as small local papers and radio stations either are pushed out of business or consumed by the media giants. I find it especially troubling that this proposed FCC action has been practically absent from the mainstream media, who have the most to gain from the dismantling of these rules.

In summary, I urge the FCC to fulfill its mission to protect the rights of the American people by maintaining rules regulating and limiting cross-ownership of media outlets.

Sincerely,

Erica Beade  
69 Newton St. 3R  
Somerville, MA 02143

No. of Copies rec'd 0+1  
DATE